



# Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Reporting Form

C1	Agency Name:	COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, PLANNING DEPARTMENT
C2	Address:	701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR
C3	Contact Name:	JERRY BUSCH
C4	Title:	PLANNER 3
C5	Phone Number:	831-454-3234
C6	Phone Extention:	
C7	Email:	<a href="mailto:jerry.busch@santacruz county.us">jerry.busch@santacruz county.us</a>
1a	Is your agency adopting a single agency ordinance OR a regional agency alliance ordinance?	Single Agency Ordinance ▼
1b	Date of adoption OR anticipated adoption:	Adopted 1/12/2016
2a	Reporting period:	
2b	December 1, 2015 through December 28, 2015 (all agencies)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
2c	February 1, 2016 through February 28, 2016 (additional reporting period for agencies crafting regional ordinances with other agencies)	<input type="radio"/>
3a	Are you using:	▼
3b	For agencies who have adopted a modified WELO	
3c	Is it at least as efficient as MWELo?	Yes ▼
3d	URL for your WELO	<a href="http://www.sccoplanning.com/Portals/2/County/Planning/policy/WELO_Ordinance_CLEAN_3-1-16.pdf">http://www.sccoplanning.com/Portals/2/County/Planning/policy/WELO_Ordinance_CLEAN_3-1-16.pdf</a>
3e	List major changes from the State's MWELo	See attached.
3f	If specific types of projects are exempt (other than those already specified in MWELo), state what they are and the sections of the ordinance that they are exempt from.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Agricultural crops, feedlots or pastures.</li><li>▪ Areas solely dedicated to edible plants.</li><li>▪ Landscape areas installed solely for stormwater treatment.</li><li>▪ Landscape areas irrigated by hand or low-volume irrigation for one establishment period not to exceed 2-5 years following final inspection (per SCCC 13.13.070), after which time the irrigation system is removed.</li><li>▪ Residential remodels and additions</li><li>▪ Accessory dwelling units</li><li>▪ The County ordinance applies to all new or rehabilitated commercial landscapes. (The State ordinance exempts new commercial landscapes of less than 500 square feet and rehabilitated commercial landscapes of less than 2,500 square feet.)</li><li>▪ For landscapes irrigated entirely with recycled water, the State treats as Special Landscape Areas subject to WELO requirements; the County ordinance exempts such landscapes.</li><li>▪ For landscapes irrigated entirely with graywater or captured water, the State partially exempts projects of less than 2,500 square feet. The County ordinance wholly exempts such landscapes regardless of area.</li></ul>



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3g	Have elements from other regulations been incorporated (e.g., tree shading percent coverage requirement, stormwater capture requirements).	Yes
3h	If yes, describe:	Plants selected for subject landscapes must be consistent with fire district fuel modification and defensible space guidelines, County agricultural buffer guidelines, significant tree replacement requirements and the Urban Forestry Master plan. Stormwater best management practices to control runoff and increase onsite filtration are encouraged to be consistent with County stormwater management regulations. County building codes were updated to be more consistent with the regulations of agencies that provide water. Hours of sprinkler operation in County WELO are consistent with watering regulations of County Environmental Health Services.
4	If other agencies are implementing the ordinance, explain their role:	When a water efficient landscape ordinance (WELO) has been adopted by a water district or municipality, that ordinance shall apply. As of January, 2013, the City of Santa Cruz and the Soquel Creek Water District have adopted WELOs, so they process landscape plans for County projects in their areas.
5	Permitted projects subject to the ordinance during the reporting period (*e.g., single family residences, commercial projects, landscape retrofits for which permits were finalized during the reporting period, etc.):	No projects permitted under the updated WELO, which became effective on February 11, 2016.
6a	Total landscape area subject to the ordinance over the reporting period:	No projects permitted under the updated WELO.
6b	Unit of Measure (sq. ft. or acres)	Square Feet
7a	During the reporting period, how many of the following types of projects did your agency issue final permits on:	
7b	new housing starts	8
7c	new commercial projects	-
7d	landscape retrofits	-
8	Describe the procedure for review of projects subject to the ordinance:	Building permit applications are screened by a planner at intake; the prescreen form includes WELO checkbox. Application must include either a signed WELO Checklist or a landscape plan with a signed WELO compliance statement. Discretionary permits are conditioned to require WELO compliance as applicable.
9a	Describe actions taken to verify compliance:	Field inspection by qualified private inspector, installation certificate accepted by County building inspector.
9b	Is a plan check performed?	No
9c	If so, by what entity?	
10	Describe implementation and enforcement measures:	Every installed landscape must be inspected by a qualified, independent third party – a certified landscape irrigation auditor, certified irrigation designer, licensed landscape architect or licensed civil engineer. A signed landscape installation certificate must be provided to the building inspector prior to Building Permit final.



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11	<b>Explain challenges to implementing and enforcing the ordinance:</b>	1) Obtaining staff compliance in applying WELO to subject applications. 2) insufficient budget to check or inspect landscape plans, so plans self-certified by applicant and field-certified by qualified third party. 3) Potential resistance by builders to completing and certifying landscape prior to final -- landscaping always installed last, when projects urgent to get finalized.
12	<b>Describe educational and other needs to properly apply the ordinance:</b>	Ordinance will be properly applied with resources put in place. See website: <a href="http://www.sccoplanning.com/Portals/2/County/Planning/policy/WELO_doc.pdf">http://www.sccoplanning.com/Portals/2/County/Planning/policy/WELO_doc.pdf</a>
13	<b>Additional Comments:</b>	Staff compliance should improve with time.

[Please submit reports, including a copy of your local water efficient landscape ordinance, via email to WELO@water.ca.gov by December 31, 2015. Agencies preparing a regional ordinance must submit an additional report by March 1, 2016. For questions, please call Ms. Julie Saare-Edmonds at \(916\) 651-9676.](#)